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Second spacewalk folds solar array for other work to continue

◆ **Mission Update:** Mission Specialists Pat Forrester and Steve Swanson conducted STS-117's second spacewalk Wednesday. They camped out in the Quest airlock as part of their spacewalk preparations. The objectives of the excursion were to continue preparing the newly installed Starboard 3 and 4 truss segment, known as S3/S4, for operation and to assist with the retraction of the starboard solar array on the Port 6 truss, or P6. The spacewalk began at 2:03 p.m.

Retraction of the P6 array began at 6:47 a.m. Once the P6 arrays are furled, the stage is set for a future shuttle crew to relocate the P6 from atop the space station to the end of the Port 5 truss. Forrester and Swanson will assist in the retraction if needed during the early stages of the spacewalk.

The work with the S3/S4 focused on preparing the solar alpha rotary joint for operation by removing the remaining launch restraints. The rotary joint will allow the starboard arrays to track the sun.

Mission Specialist Jim Reilly coordinated the spacewalk and Pilot Lee Archambault operated the station's robotic arm. Two more spacewalks are scheduled for STS-117.

◆ **ELV Update:** NASA's Dawn spacecraft is targeted to launch aboard a Delta II rocket from Cape Canaveral on July 7. Hydrazine, used for spacecraft

control and maneuvering, was loaded aboard on June 10.

After mating to its upper stage booster, Dawn will be transported to Pad 17-B for mating to the Delta on June 26. At the pad, operations to attach the solid rocket boosters to the first stage are complete. The second stage is expected to be hoisted atop the first stage on June 15.

Dawn's goal is to characterize the conditions and processes of the solar system's earliest epoch 4.5 billion years ago by investigating in detail two of the largest asteroids, Ceres and Vesta. They reside between Mars and Jupiter in the asteroid belt. Scientists theorize these were budding planets never given the opportunity to grow.

However, Ceres and Vesta each followed a different evolutionary path during the first few million years of the solar system's evolution. Dawn will be the first spacecraft to orbit an object in the asteroid belt and the first to orbit two bodies after leaving Earth.



■ **BEST BBQ Homemade Dessert Contest**

— The contest is open to all KSC and CCAFS employees.

Prizes will be awarded for the "BEST" desserts. You must bring your dessert to KARS Park I no later than **12:30 p.m. June 22. Judging will then commence at 1 p.m. in the conference room at KARS Park I.**

Contest rules:

- Recipes must be original (**no** store purchases).
- Recipes must be creative: each dessert

must be "homemade."

- Your name, phone number and dessert name must be typed on tent cards and included with each entry.
- All entries must be pie, cake or candy.
- Contestants cannot be present during judging.
- The cutoff date for entry information is **June 15.**
- Contest desserts **WILL** be served at the BBQ.

The four areas of judging criteria are *taste* (overall taste) – 40%; *originality/creativity* – 30%; *appearance/presentation* – 20%; and *ease of preparation* – 10%.

Winners will be announced at the BEST BBQ. For more information or to sign up, contact Truemilla Johnson at 867-2307 or Maxine Daniels at 867-5976.

■ **NASA Science** — NASA is joining a Japanese team in a space experiment that uses reverse origami to show the way to help keep satellites in their proper orbits, or to return spent rocket stages quickly to Earth. Read the full story at:

http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2007/11jun_ff.htm?list947891.

■ **Did You Know?** Due to mechanical problems, the mobile snack truck will not be in service until at least Monday.

Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 10 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to anita.barrett@jbsc.ksc.nasa.gov. For questions or information, e-mail or call 321-867-2815. You can also find *Countdown* on the Web at: nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/coutdown-toc.html.